

SENATOR BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT ON RE-NOMINATION OF COMMISSIONER SUSAN NESS
MARCH 22, 2000

I am happy to be here this morning to introduce FCC Commissioner Susan Ness for reconfirmation to the FCC.

Commissioner Ness was originally appointed to the FCC by President Clinton in 1994 and has been the Commission's senior member since November 1997. Commissioner Ness has been a dedicated and tireless worker in helping to formulate communications policies that will benefit the quality of life for future generations. Commissioner Ness currently chairs the Federal-State Joint Board which is charged with addressing universal telephone service issues and has served as the FCC's lead representative at the 1995 and 1997 World Radiocommunication Conferences in Geneva, Switzerland.

Among her many accomplishments during her FCC tenure, Commissioner Ness has worked to: improve children's educational television; promote universal telephone service; connect classrooms and libraries to the Internet; roll out digital television service; introduce new wireless services; expand telephone and video competition; promote efficient spectrum management; open overseas markets; and eliminate unnecessary regulations.

In recognition of her accomplishments Commissioner Ness was chosen as a recipient of the International Radio and Television Society Foundation Award and was selected one of *Electronic Media's* #12 to Watch in 1997." She has also been honored by Women of Wireless and by the American Women in Radio and Television for her efforts on behalf of women.

Prior to coming to the FCC, Commissioner Ness was a senior lender to communications companies as a vice president of a regional financial institution. A lawyer by profession, she also served as Assistant Counsel to the Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing in the US House of Representatives. She also founded and directed the Judicial Appointments Project of the National Women's Political Caucus.

Commissioner Ness is a graduate of Douglass College where she received a B.A. in 1970. There she served on the Board of Directors of WRSU Radio. She received a Juris Doctor, cum laude from Boston College Law School and a Masters in Business Administration from The Wharton School of The University of Pennsylvania.

Another 5 years for Commissioner Ness will be good for the FCC and good for the country. I wholeheartedly support Commissioner Ness's renomination and urge a swift reconfirmation.